Artists Sponsored under Cultural Exchange Programmes

2100. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many delegations or individual artists have been sponsored to other countries during the year 1997 under the programme of cultural exchange with other countries and people;

(b) how many delegations or individual artists have been received in India under the programme during the year 1997;

(c) names of delegations or individual artists from Andhra Pradesh covered under the programme during the year 1997; and

(d) whether there are any unique art forms with classical base included in the delegations and if so, the details of such forms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) During the year 1997, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored 103 cultural delegations/artists for performances abroad. Of these *61* cultural delegations/artists were sent to countries with which India has cultural exchange programmes.

(b) During the year 1997, *34* foreign cultural delegations/ artists were received in India by the ICCR for performances in various cities. Of these, *11* were from coutnries with which India has cultural exchange programmes.

(c) The cultural delegations/artists from Andhra Pradesh covered under the programme during 1997 were:

1. Smt. Ananda Shankar Jayanth & group (Kuchipudi/Bharatanatyam/ Contemporary dance)

2. Guru Jayarama Rao & Smt. Vanashree Rao (Kuchipudi)

3. Shri Shubender Rao (Sitar)

(d) Idnian art forms with classical base presented in performances abroad by cultural delegations/artists sponsored by the ICCR in 1997 included:

Instrumental Music: Flute, Sarod, Sitar, Violin, Tabla, Mridangam, Gottuvadyam and other percussion, Rudra Veena, Shehnai, Sarangi, Santoor.

Vocal Music: Hindustani, Carantic, Light Classical.

Dance : Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Manipuri, Mohiniyattam.

Meeting between BSF and Bangladeshi Authorities

2101. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held recently between the BSF authorities of India and their counterparts of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what are the areas of discussions; and

(c) what has been the outcome of such discussions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Director General-level talks were held between the Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles from 25 to 28 October, 1998 in Dhaka.

(b) and (c) The subjects disussed covered issues related to border management including smuggling, security cooperation, cross border movement, illegal trafficking in women and children etc. The meeting met its intended purpose of discussing ground level issues regarding border management and steps for cooperation.

Grant for food processing institutes

2102. SHRI M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the grant given by Government to the food processing institutes and agencies with State-wise particulars;

(b) the steps taken by Government; and